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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,908	11/27/2001	Subir K. Dey	3691-321	7677
23117	7590	07/29/2004	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC			CHEN, VIVIAN	
1100 N GLEBE ROAD			ART UNIT	
8TH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			1773	

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/993,908	DEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vivian Chen	1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4 and 26-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1773

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 9-25, 31-30 have been cancelled by Applicant.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1, 3, 26-30 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1, 3-8, 25-30 of copending Application No. 09/993,909 (DEY ET AL) (allowed).

Copending Application No. 09/993,909 claims the recited laminate containing a styrene block copolymer, thermoplastic olefin and polyvinyl fluoride layers, color and transparency characteristics, and articles made from said laminates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1, 3-4, 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over TSAI ET AL (US 6,306,503);

in view of SPAIN ET AL (US 5,284,693) and SMITH ET AL (US 6,187,233);

TSAI ET AL discloses a multilayer laminate comprising a polyvinyl fluoride layer, a tie layer, and a thermoplastic polyolefin layer, wherein the tie layer comprises a SEBS block copolymer. (line 20-68, col. 1; line 43-50, col. 3) However, the reference does not explicitly disclose a laminate with a clear coat layer or automotive trim components.

SPAIN ET AL discloses that it is well known in the art to use polyvinyl fluoride as a clear coat layer over a colored underlayer of a thermoformable laminate in order to improve durability and weatherability (lines 20-32, col. 11).

SMITH ET AL discloses that it is well known in the art to use thermoformable laminates comprising a colored base substrate and a upper clear layer having a transparency of preferably at least 90% to produce durable automotive trim articles (abstract, line 37, col. 8 to line 10, col. 9).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize transparent polyvinyl fluoride resins as a protective surface layer in the laminate of TSAI ET AL in order to produce materials suitable for forming durable and colorful automotive trim components. One of ordinary skill in the art would have incorporated conventional adhesion-modifying additives such as a tackifier in the adhesive (claim 4) in order to facilitate manufacture and optimize interlayer adhesion desired for a given application.

Response to Amendments

5. The rejections based on 35 USC 103(a) in paragraphs 9-12 of the previous Office Action have been withdrawn in view of the Amendment filed 5/13/2004.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 5/13/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(A) Applicant argues that the claims of the copending Application No. 09/993,909 (DEY ET AL) fails to disclose the claimed invention because the '909 claims are narrower than the present application claims. However, the invention as claimed in the '909 Application clearly read on and meet all the limitations in the present application claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a laminate comprising a thermoplastic polyolefin layer, adhesive layer, and a polyvinyl fluoride layer, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a mixture of a styrenic block copolymer and a terpene tackifier.

Art Unit: 1773

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1773

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivian Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1506. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Thibodeau, can be reached on (571) 272-1516. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

The General Information telephone number for Technology Center 1700 is (571) 272-1700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 22, 2004



Vivian Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1773